CAMP WHITE
GRENADE
II

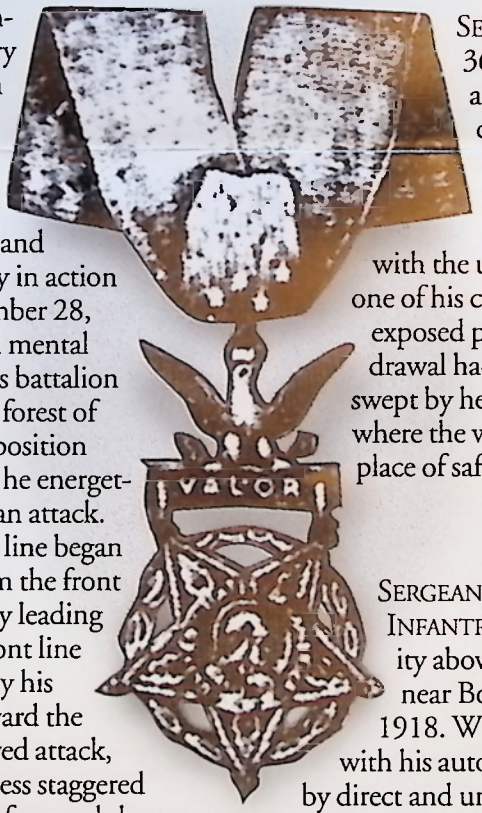
"Preserving the Past for the Future"

VOLUME 5, NO. 2 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CAMP WHITE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION JUNE 2000

THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR:

91st Division Recipients

The following six recipients of the highest honor that can be given for bravery and valor by our country all served in the 91st Division, the first four in World War I, and the last two in World War II.



MAJOR OSCAR F. MILLER. DECEASED. 361ST INFANTRY. For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy near Gesnes, France, September 28, 1918. After two days of intense physical and mental stress, during which Major Miller had led his battalion in the front line of the advance, through the forest of Argonne, the enemy was met in a prepared position south of Gesnes. Though almost exhausted, he energetically reorganized his battalion and ordered an attack. Upon reaching open ground, the advancing line began to waver in the face of machine-gun fire from the front and flanks, and direct artillery fire. Personally leading his command group forward between his front line companies, Major Miller inspired his men by his personal courage and they again pressed toward the hostile position. As this officer led the renewed attack, he was shot in the right leg, but he nevertheless staggered forward at the head of his command. Soon afterwards he was shot in the right arm but he continued the charge, personally cheering his troops on through the heavy machine-gun fire. Just before the objective was reached he was shot in the abdomen which forced him to the ground, but he continued to urge his men on telling them to push on to the next ridge and leave him where he lay. He died of his wounds a few days later.

—From U.S. Official Pictures of the War. Washington, D.C., 1920

SERGEANT PHILIP C. KATZ. COMPANY C. 363RD INFANTRY. For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy near Eclisfontaine, France, September 26, 1918. After his company had withdrawn for a distance of two hundred yards on a line with the units on its flanks, Sgt. Katz learned that one of his comrades had been left wounded in an exposed position at the point from which the withdrawal had taken place. Voluntarily crossing an area swept by heavy machine-gun fire he advanced to where the wounded soldier lay and carried him to a place of safety.

—From U.S. Official Pictures of the War. Washington, D.C., 1920

SERGEANT CHESTER H. WEST. COMPANY D, 363RD INFANTRY. For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action near Bois de Cheppy, France, September 16, 1918. While making his way through a thick fog with his automatic rifle section, his advance was halted by direct and unusual machine-gun fire from two guns. Without aid, he at once dashed through the fire and, attacking the nest, killed two of the gunners, one of whom was an officer. This prompt and decisive hand-to-hand encounter on his part enabled his company to advance farther without the loss of a man.

—From U.S. Official Pictures of the War. Washington, D.C., 1920

(continued inside)

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Al Inlow

Dear friends and fellow members:

We strive to make this newsletter interesting to everyone by capturing your past history. The Association is always looking for stories that took place at Camp White, Camp Adair, training at Camp White or Eastern Oregon, etc. They can be short or long-length doesn't matter.

Also, the exhibits in our museum are continually rotated and upgraded. We hope to start making a video in the very near future, so that people who can't travel can acquire the tape and enjoy the museum that way.

On April 8, 2000, we held Camp White Military Museum Awareness Day. 121 guests attended. The museum will also be represented at the VA cemetery this Memorial Day by a display and wreath presented by honorary board member and former association president Mel Cotton.

Al Inlow

AL INLOW, COMMANDER

Camp White Historical Association and Museum

THE GRENADE II

The *Grenade II* is the official newsletter of the Camp White Historical Association and Museum.

Executive Editor .....Al Inlow
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The Grenade *accepts suggestions and contributions from readers. If you have a story idea or appropriate event to promote, write Al Inlow at P.O. Box 2373, White City, OR 97503.*

(continued from cover)

SERGEANT LLOYD M. SEIBERT. COMPANY F. 364TH INFANTRY. For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy near Epinonville, France, September 26, 1918. Suffering from illness, Sgt. Seibert remained with his platoon and led his men with the highest courage and leadership under heavy shell and machine-gun fire. With two other soldiers, Sgt. Seibert charged a machine-gun emplacement in advance of his company, he himself killing one of the enemy with a shot gun and capturing two others. In this encounter he was wounded, but he nevertheless continued in action and, when a withdrawal was ordered, he returned with the last unit, assisting a wounded comrade. Later in the evening he volunteered and carried in wounded until he fainted from exhaustion.

—From U.S. Official Pictures of the War. Washington, D.C., 1920

SERGEANT ROY W. HARMON. COMPANY C, 362ND INFANTRY. On the morning of 12 July, 1944, C. Company was advancing in the attack in the vicinity of Casaglia. It was to take Hill 206 then continue onward. Sgt. Harmon was acting squad leader of the 3rd Squad, 3rd Platoon. As the company moved toward the hill it received moderate artillery and mortar fire but continued ahead. The hill was large, with two crests and a draw up the middle. Forward of it was ground consisting of open wheat fields which had been cut. There was no concealing brush or trees and numerous haystacks, about eight feet high, dotted the landscape. The 1st Platoon moved forward of the left crest of the hill but the advance was stopped by machine-gun, mortar, and rifle fire from enemy positions in the haystacks which were to the front and flanks. These positions were well dug in, each with excellent fields of fire. About a battalion of enemy was estimated to be in the 1st Battalion sector. As the 1st Platoon moved downhill forward of the left crest of the hill, the enemy let go with heavy fire. The platoon hit the ground and stayed there, pinned down by the fire. Meanwhile, the 3rd Platoon moved around the right crest of the hill. It didn't move far because of poor cover and enemy fire. The Weapons Platoon moved up to the rear of the right crest but the machine-gun section was unable to move into position and assist.

As Sgt. Harmon's squad proceeded up the draw to the right of the crest, a sniper fired on one of the men. Harmon stood erect and exposed his body to the fire as the man originally marked shot the sniper.

The citation accompanying the nation's highest honor tells the rest of the story. "When his company was halted with one platoon exposed to almost certain annihilation by enemy fire from several positions, Sgt. Harmon performed with extraordinary heroism above and beyond the call of duty. He voluntarily moved forward, carrying several white phosphorus grenades to knock out the enemy positions and killed two of its occupants with his sub-machine-gun, then crawled forward to the second position, bullets striking inches from him. Though he was wounded he kept moving forward and destroyed the second position. He then continued onto the third enemy position. He was again wounded but crawled through heavy fire directed straight at him. Near the enemy position he raised up to throw a grenade but was knocked down by rifle fire. With superhuman effort in his dying moment, he raised up again, threw the grenade and fell dead. The grenade fired the position and destroyed it. Through Harmon's efforts the platoon was able to maneuver to a better position and the pressure on the entire company was relieved. Sgt. Harmon's extraordinary heroism sheds the greatest honor on himself and his country."

—From the final edition of the 362nd's Maggie's Drawers, Volturno Valley, 23 August, 1945.

SERGEANT OSCAR G. JOHNSON (THEN PRIVATE-FIRST-CLASS), COMPANY B, 363RD INFANTRY, practically singlehandedly protected the left flank of his company's position near Scarperia, Italy from 16 to 18 September 1944 in the offensive to break the Germans' Gothic Line. Company B was the extreme left assault unit of the corps. The advance was stopped by heavy fire from Monticelli Ridge, and the company took cover behind an embankment. Private Johnson, a mortar gunner, having expended his ammunition, assumed the duties of a rifleman. As leader of a squad of seven men he was ordered to establish a combat post 50 yards to the left of the company to cover its exposed flank. Repeated enemy counterattacks, supported by artillery, mortar and machine-gun fire from the high ground to his front, had by the afternoon of 16 September killed or wounded all of his men. Collecting weapons and ammunition from his fallen comrades, in the face of hostile fire, he held his exposed position and inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy, who several times came close enough to toss hand grenades. On the night of 16-17 September, the enemy launched its heaviest attack on Company B, putting the greatest pressure against the lone defender on the left flank. Despite mortar fire which crashed around him and machine-gun bullets which whipped the crest of his shallow trench, Private Johnson stood erect and repulsed the attack with grenades and small-arms fire. He remained awake and on the alert through the night, frustrating all attempt at infiltration. On 17 September, 25 Germans surrendered to him. Two men, sent to reinforce him that afternoon, were caught in a devastating mortar and artillery barrage. With no thought for his own safety, Private Johnson rushed to the shell hole where they lay half buried and seriously wounded, covered their position by his fire, and assisted a Medical Corps man in rendering aid. That night he secured their removal to the rear and remained on watch until his company was relieved. Five companies of a German paratroop regiment had been repeatedly committed to the attack on Company B without success. Twenty dead Germans were found in front of the position.

By his heroic stand and utter disregard for personal safety, Private Johnson was in large measure responsible for defeating the enemy's attempt to turn the exposed left flank.

—From 363rd History, Infantry Journal Press, 1947

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Al Inlow

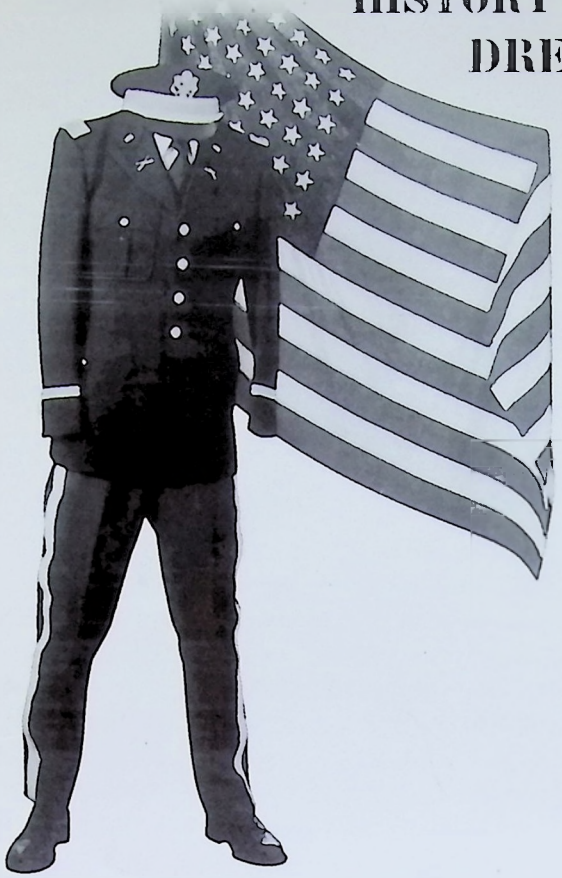
I have been elected by the Board of Trustees to be the Commander, other than that, I am a volunteer and put many hours in running our museum.

I grew up in the Rogue Valley and watched Camp White while it was being built, as my father and I drove through camp every week. He was logging up on Long Branch, above Beagle Firing Range. At times we could hear big guns firing day and night. Sometimes soldiers got lost and come by our camp for help, and Dad would tell them how to get back. I wanted to go with them, but was too young.

I joined the Army in 1948 and took basic at Fort Ord in California, in the 4th Infantry Division. After I completed basic training, I was assigned to the Elite Constabulary Forces in Occupied Germany for three years, six months, and 22 days, in the 519th FA BN (155 HOW). I then went on to: the U.S. Marine Corps (1953-56); Oregon National Guard, HQ BTRY 732nd AAA BN (1956-58); the U.S. Marine Corps again (1958-62); the U.S. 8th Army, Korea (1962); 5th Army, Ft. Riley (1964); 7th Army, Mannheim Germany (1965); Vietnam, 1968; VII Corps, Stuttgart Germany (1969); Vietnam again, 1970; Advisory Duty in the Army Reserve, San Bernardino, California (1972); 8th Army, Korea again (1974); and finally the 7th Infantry Division in Fort Ord, California (1976).

I retired as a Master Sergeant May 1, 1977, having received several awards, including the bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Army Commendation with Oak Leaf Clusters, and others. In 1978 I went into civil service with the Federal Government, with assignments in California, Germany, Italy and Korea. I retired from civil service in 1993, moved back to Oregon in 1995, and joined the Camp White Historical Association where I remain.

HISTORY ON DISPLAY:
DRESS UNIFORMS OF THE UNTIED STATES ARMED FORCES



Each branch of the armed forces of the United States has one or more designated dress uniforms. Of these, one consists of a blue tunic and trousers. The blue color originated with the Continental Army in the late 1700's and has remained a tradition since that time.

The original shade of blue was chosen as it was the color of the Whig party in England. As those who fought the British during the Revolutionary War were also considered Whigs, it was felt that the color of the Continental Army should also be blue.

The tradition was almost lost when on May 9, 1898, a scant two weeks after war had been declared against Spain, khaki clothing was authorized for field service officers. Although the transition began in 1898, it was not completed until 1912, at which time the blue clothing had attained the status of a dress uniform to be worn on special occasions.

The uniform displayed is that of an Army armored cavalry officer. The yellow stripe on the hat and trousers denote the Armor Branch of the Army. The crossed sabers on the lapels denote that the wearer is a cavalry officer.

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